

When William Gardner made his report to Brigham Young of the exploration of the Provo and Weber river valleys he told of the plentiful supply of timber there.

¹⁷Wasatch Wave, December 21, 1906.

¹⁸Emily Coleman, interview, 1952.

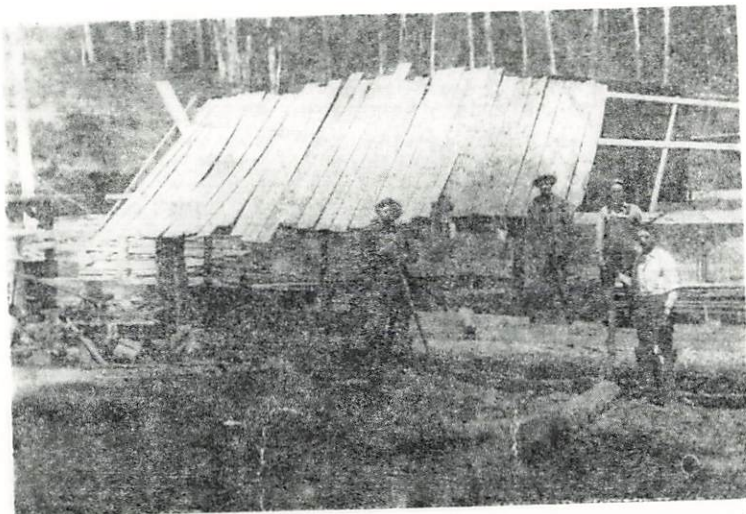
¹⁹Lethe Tatge, interview, 1952.

feet of marketable saw timber. In the stands of Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce there were vast stands of aspen and scattered stands of white and alpine fir, all of which were heavily logged as the region was opened.

Saw mills began to spring forth all over the valley as soon as the settlers arrived. In the winter of 1859-60 William Meeks and James Adams with companions went up Center Creek Canyon and got out timber for a saw mill. This was the pioneer saw mill in the Provo Valley, and it began turning out lumber in the fall of 1860.²¹

²⁰Journal History, June 6, 1858, p. 2.

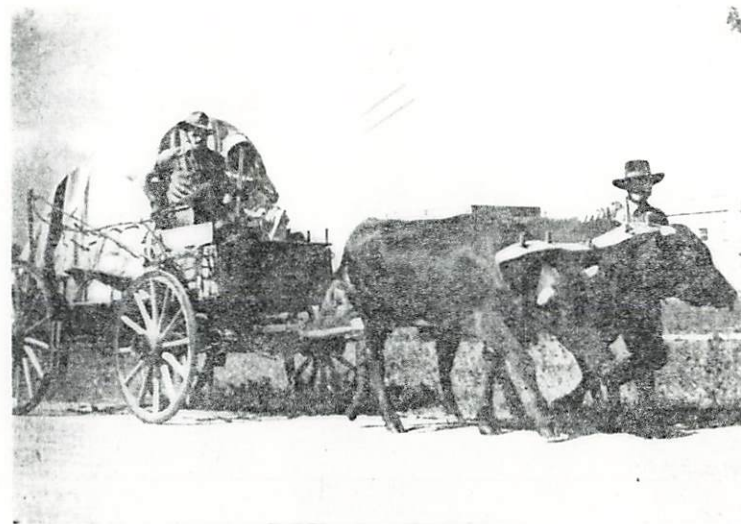
²¹Crook, "History of Wasatch County," op. cit., p. 7.



Thacker's early sawmill: Charles Thacker standing center and John M. Thacker right rear.

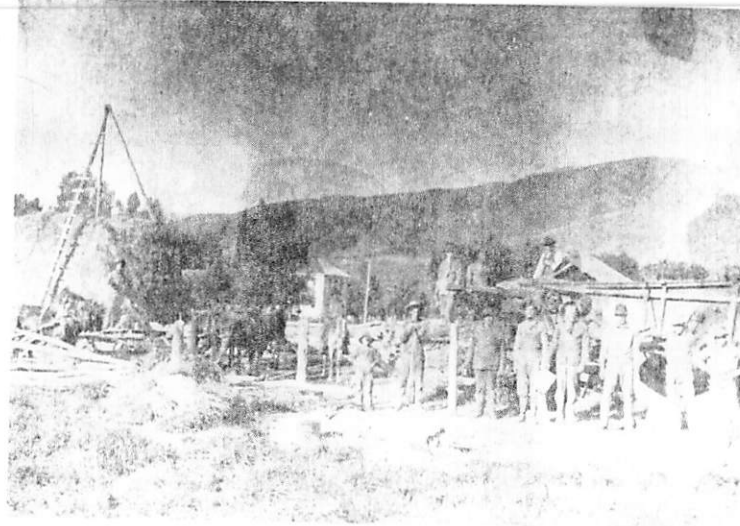
Next was Peter Shirts with a mill on Snake Creek, followed by the Lake Creek Mills of Nicol and Alexander, the Carroll mill in Heber, and the Watkins mill on Deer Creek. Other mills were built by Forman on Daniel Creek, Henry Coleman on the lower Snake Creek, and McGuire, Turner and Campbell mills on the South Fork of Provo River.

The mills were first run with water power from the creeks but later steam was introduced. Logging was done with oxen, and it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of these animals in the pioneering venture. They were particularly valuable in lumbering. Here they were preferred even over horses. They were steady and not easily excited. Where horses, when pulling a heavy load would saw back and forth or would balk, the oxen would steady down and pull harder and harder. Oxen could get over the logs easier and could go



Freighting by oxen

Life was hard at the lumber camps both for owner and laborers. The mill owner's family usually lived right at the mill and his wife or older daughters did the cooking for the crews.

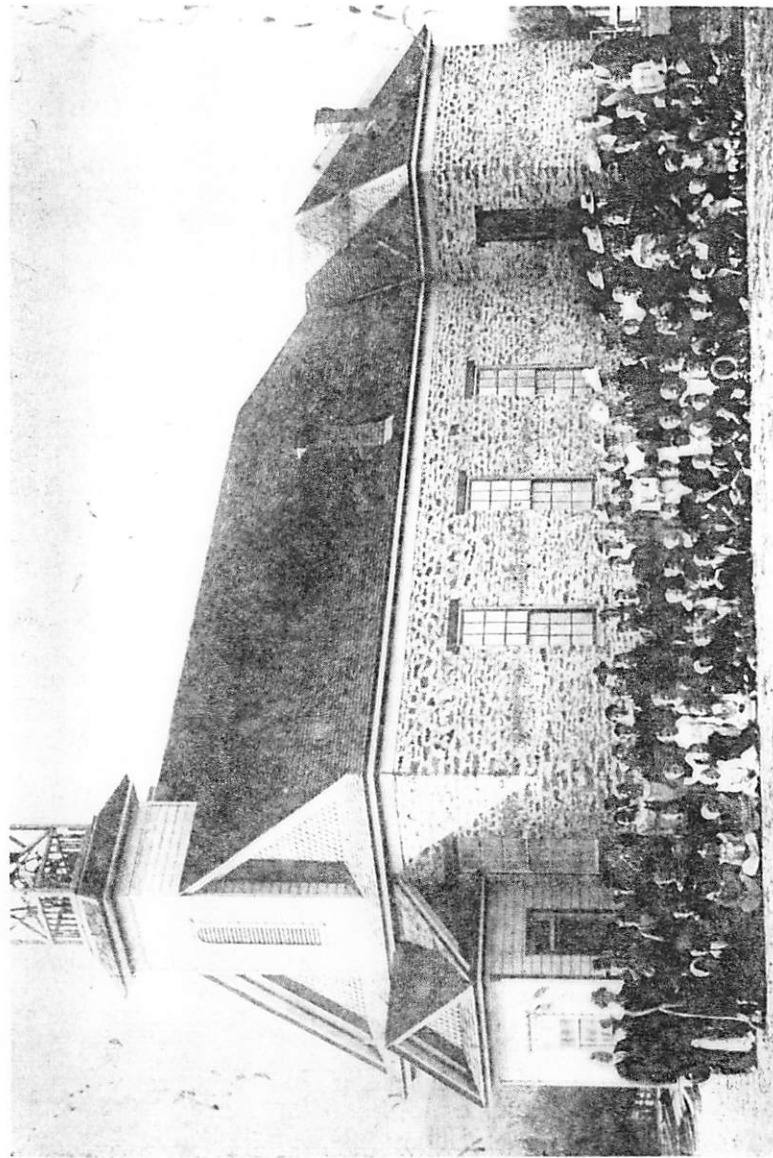


Threshing crew in Midway

Sawed lumber was used as building material in the valley or shipped to some of the central Utah settlements. When mining activity in the Park City region began much of the lumber was shipped there for use in the mines. William Gardner, the early Mormon explorer of the valley, thought that timbers could be floated down the Provo River to the market in Provo City, but this did not prove practical.

Two special lumbering activities in the county were the manufacture of shingles from Engelman spruce and excelsior packing from quaking aspen.

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Charleston School and Church. Example of early Pot-rock construction.

INDUSTRY

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Shingle mills were operated by Charles Thacker, John Campbell, Mr. Henry S. Alexander, and Herbert Clegg. Shingle timber had to be clear from knots, and straight grained. After the logs had been cleared they were hauled to the mill and there sawed by a dragsaw into sixteen-inch blocks. Once the blocks were prepared they were quartered with an ax and the heart wood taken out and placed in a steam box overnight to soften and draw out the sap so that the shingles would not split in use.

After softening to the consistency of cheese, the shingles were cut with a knife on a frame run by steam power. A man stood at a bench feeding the hot blocks to the knife, twisting the blocks back and forth and turning them over to keep the shingles even while forming the thick and thin ends. Then girls, who sat or kneeled on sacks filled with sawdust, placed the shingles in bunches of 250 each. A good buncher could bunch about 10,000 shingles a day at ten cents per thousand. For this dollar a day she worked from dawn until late at night, often by the light of a bonfire.²³ These shingles lasted 50 years.

Lumbering is still an important industry in the county. The major change from pioneer days has been the establishment of national forests resulting in the regulation of timber cutting. —

TRAPPING

Among the early trappers in Provo Valley was a twelve year old boy, Eph Nelson, who trapped musk rats along the Provo River, the pelts from which he sold to A. Hatch and Co. for from three to five cents per pelt. In those early days there were no restrictions against fishing so he also caught fish which he took to Park City

²³Ibid., p. 14.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

People, Places and Events

When events occur for the first time or when people achieve new things there is usually popular acclaim to remember the events or the people. There are many memorable "firsts" in Wallsburg, including the following:

The first school house and church building was constructed inside the fort area and Mrs. Lucina M. Boren was the first school teacher. The first school house outside the fort was the home of Martin Ford, and the first regular school building was on the property of George L. Batty. Miss Josephine Wall was teacher in 1859. Teachers who came to these first schools lived in the homes of Jennie Allred, Susan Davis, Amber Ford and Mrs. John Graham.

Some of the first musicians that played for dances were William Bancroft, dulcimer; George Allred, Amber, Martin and Alfred Ford, James Wheeler and William Davis who played the violin, organ and guitar.

Mrs. Polly Mecham was the first doctor in Wallsburg and used herbs as well as faith and prayer in caring for the sick. Mrs. Annie Mecham, wife of John L. Mecham, also was an early doctor in the area.

The first irrigation ditches were made by W. J. Boren and William Haws.

The first post office was directed by William E. Nuttall and the mail was carried on horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer. The mail route from Wallsburg was to "String Town" or what was later Harry Watson's farm near Charleston. Other postmasters included S. D. Greer, George Dabling, George P. Garff, Della Mecham, Orpha Wall and Alice C. Graham. Mail carriers included Abram Penrod, Elijah Davis, Ray Boren, Ellis Boren, Willard Davis, John Wall and Roy V. Loertscher.

The first manufacturing was the production of shingles. Owner of the first shingle mill was William Nuttall. John Parcell, Enoch Richens and Elijah Davis also owned an early mill. There were many good lumber mills and carpenters, including William Ford and Martin Ford Jr., who were especially skilled at manufacturing caskets.

The first piece of machinery brought to Round Valley was a mower and reaper owned by Martin Ford, Sr.

The first shoemakers were W. J. Boren, William Haws and Luke Burdick. Mr. Boren was also a skilled cabinetmaker. Early stores were owned by Dick Camp, James Allred, Jacob Harris and Dixon Greer.

The first saw mill was owned by William Penrod. W. J. Boren and James Wheeler, William G. Nuttall and Daniel Bigelow also owned mills.

Martin Ford and William Stoker brought the first cook stoves to the valley. Prior to this all the cooking had been done in fireplaces. Cooking utensils consisted of a kettle on three legs, a bake oven and a deep frying pan 4 Aug. 1864.

Susann Wall, Enoch Gurr and John C. Greer were the first white children to be born in Round Valley 24 Feb. 1865.

Some of the first dramatists in Round Valley were Eathan A. Duke, Joseph Kerby, Polly Allred, Belle Penrod, Frank Allred, Mr. and Mrs. How Duke, Ezra Greer, Parley Ford, Earl Ford, Mark Kerby, William Ford, Gertrude Ford, John Whiting, Alfred Ford, Leone Allen, Myrtle Ford and some others.

SCHOOLS IN WALLSBURG

A combination church house and school building constructed of logs plastered with mud was the scene of the first classwork in Wallsburg. Mrs. Lucina M. Boren taught in the small building which was located inside the fort walls.



The Wallsburg School constructed in 1904 from red sandstone and still in use.

When the community expanded outside the fort, Martin Ford's home was used as the school and Aaron Thomas, a Christian minister, served as the teacher.

Later, a combination school house and dance hall was built on property owned by George L. Batty. A second school house was built a few years later and boasted two rooms of red sandstone construction. The present school was built in 1904 by Edd Snyder, and also was of red sandstone. When the building was constructed the town was bonded for \$4,000, but the indebtedness was soon paid off and \$1,500 in cash was turned over to the Wasatch County School District when Wallsburg District was discontinued and all county schools were consolidated.

Lucina Mecham Boren began teaching in the winter of 1865 and these teachers followed: Josephine Wall Rogers, Dixon Hamlin Greer, Richard Cecil Camp, George Pickup, F. W. HATHENBROOK, Aaron Thomas, all before 1875. Then D. Camp Wray, Richard J. Nuttall, Ada Glenn,